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# CHAIRMAN CHAT

**Good everyone to everyone and welcome to Olympic Legacy Park.**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Olympic Legacy Park, the home of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Football club, Toronto Wolfpack, Martin Vickers their Chief Executive, Brian Noble MBE Director of Rugby (no relation but we do both have MBE's!) directors, backroom staff, players and of course their guests and spectators.

Playing this game on a Friday night is getting back to what we did several years ago on a permanent basis and the game tonight should be a great experience again, let us hope for good weather.

May I congratulate the team on a great game at the Summer Bash last weekend against Barrow Raiders.

It was fast and furious from start until once again we took our foot off the pedal in the last few minutes again.

We do this regularly and it is costly, and it was very costly also with massive injuries to our captain Matty James and to James Glover. As I write this article Matty James is in Blackpool Hospital awaiting an operation and it would appear his season is over.

This is a massive blow to the player and to the team and his team mates. James Glover will be out for a prolonged period, another blow to the player and the team.

May I wish them both well and hope to see them both back on the field as soon as possible.

Last weekend was The Summer Bash held once again at the seaside resort of Blackpool.



What a great weekend of Rugby League. The weather once again was very kind to all of us that were there. The Rugby on both Saturday and Sunday was magnificent to watch and going along the front at Blackpool min the sunshine made the weekend.

May I thank all the spectators from the Sheffield Eagles who attended for supporting the club and also the RFL for arranging the whole weekend

a massive job and sky for seeing how good Championship rugby is and for televising every game.

As you will all be aware there is applications from Ottawa in Canada and New York to join the Rugby League in the UK.

The RFL are at present doing due diligence on both the teams to ensure they are capable of supporting themselves in our divisions.

It would appear that Ottawa will be admitted to League 1 in 2020 and New York to be admitted into Championship One in 2021.

It all makes for more interesting and international games as is the game tonight. If Toronto Wolfpack are an example of what we can expect from these teams from abroad it makes for interesting games to look forward to.

Updates on the Olympic Legacy Park development are still few at this time but we hope to provide a full and comprehensive update to you all in the very, very near future & the club thank you all for your continued patience.

Enjoy the game

Very Best Regards

Chairman - Chris Noble MBE



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# TUBBY TALK

**Welcome to the OLP for tonight's hosting of Toronto Wolfpack.**

Tonight continues a busy run of fixtures which will certainly be a testing time for the lads, but a challenge we are looking forward to.

It doesn't get more testing than a fixture against the league leaders, and Toronto haven't surprised anyone with their position in the Championship standings.

They have invested heavily and put together a fine side, which is reflected in their healthy lead at the summit.

They are not unbeatable though, and our performance against them a month or so ago will give us great heart going into the game.

I thought we were more than competitive for large parts of the game, and we'll be looking for a similar performance in terms of effort and commitment as we go in search of an upset tonight.

It was great to get back to winning ways at the Summer Bash last weekend. Barrow were excellent in the first-half, and we also had to cope with the loss of key players after James Glover and Matty James were forced off through injury.

We kept our heads though and in the second-half we had a purple patch where they just couldn't live with us and that swung the game in our favour.

It is obviously never nice to see your players seriously injured, and again I'd liked to reiterate our support to them both. I thought the lads really dug in, it was certainly a win for both Matty and James.

We included Jason Crookes in the 19-



man squad for the Summer Bash, so it is great to have him back after a lay-off for a shoulder injury.

Jason has a great attitude, if it was up to him he would have been back sooner, such is his desire to play at whatever cost.

We need all hands on deck with the likes of Widnes, Halifax and Featherstone all coming up in quick succession, so it certainly is a timely return to action.

A warm welcome to the players, staff and supporters from Toronto to the OLP tonight. The game is also on Sky, so it is another opportunity to gain some recognition for what we have done so far this season.

Thanks again for your support and enjoy the game.

Tubbs



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# COMMERCIAL CORNER

**I would like to welcome today's Match Sponsors – The Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, thank you very much for your support.**

Before I start with the commercial activities of The Club, I just want to pass on my best to Matt James and James Glover.

Both suffered season ending injuries at The Summer Bash and I wish them both a speedy recovery and hope to see them in an Eagles shirt again as soon as possible.

As a Championship club we are in the very rare situation of having games televised on Sky Sports twice in 1 week.

Whilst this brings its own operational issues it also brings great exposure for the club and our sponsors.

I am not sure of the viewing figure for the Summer Bash, but tonight's game is the one game happening this evening and Sky have said the estimate audience will be around the 100,000 mark on television.

I will endeavor to get the exact figures for both and let you know in the next programme.

The other side we have to remember with the televised games is that not only does it bring exposure to The Club and our sponsors, it



also brings it to the OLP, Sheffield and The City Region.

With the positive season we are having and the announcement that the Rugby League World Cup is coming to Sheffield, now is the time to grow our sponsor and fan base.

On sponsors, we are pleased to announce that Albion Detection have committed to the sleeve of the shirts for the next 2 years.

A big thank you to Mark Slatter for your support. Albion came onto the kits last season when we first came back to Sheffield and to have them stay with us shows their commitment to the club and the positive, they gain from it.

There has also been much talk about the Stadium and the start date for building.

I am sure Liam may touch on this but we are not pushing to get pitch boards in place so companies can reserve their spots at the ground for when the stadium does open.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in a board or, as always, getting involved with ourselves commercially in other ways please feel free to pass on their details and I will be sure to get in touch.

Commercial Director - Mark Hannigan





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# FROM THE OFFICE



**We welcome Toronto and Sky Sports to the Olympic Legacy Park this evening. This will be the first time a wide audience will have seen the Park.**

I imagine social media will be awash with negative comments from RL fans about the site in its current guise this evening and to be truthful, it would be difficult to disagree. The pitch is fantastic and maintained to a high standard but beyond that the current facilities leave a lot to be desired. We are told the build will begin shortly so come sometime next season, we will have a stadium, not a temporary setup like this. I appreciate you, our supporters, have been given so many false dawns about a home, it will happen, just please bear with us.

We are continuing to engage with local businesses in and around the Attercliffe area and across the city. You will see our latest partner Murphy Comms Hire in today's match programme who have come on board with us and will be supplying radios for the club. Big thanks to them. We are beginning to work with Sport Shack, who run three micro sports pubs across the city. We hope to develop a partnership with them moving forward and some of you may have seen their competition for tickets for tonight's match on Facebook.

Pleased to say we now have an agreement for the club to display pitch side advertising boards here at The Olympic Park. Despite our best efforts, this wasn't in time for tonight's televised match. With our game being the only Friday night fixture, with the Super League clubs competing on Saturday & Sunday at the Magic Weekend BskyB expect one of their highest viewing figures for a Championship game tonight and it's disappointing we couldn't take advantage of this exposure for local businesses & our sponsors. That said, Mark has worked to get a number agreed and so expect to see healthy number in place for our next home game against Featherstone.

Finally, some of you may have seen the unfair criticism levelled at our Summer Bash kit. Appreciate its personal taste but sadly it was suggested the colours had nothing to do with the club's history and that we were cashing in on extra replica sales. You would think that a RL journalist would know the Gold & Maroon colours in the kit and synonymous with the club. We also aren't selling replicas of the kit but will be auctioning these off with a donation made to our chosen charity this year, Start A Heart (details to follow).

It's been touched on elsewhere in the programme, but it would be remiss of me not to mention the injuries to James & Glover at the Summer Bash. Credit to our backroom staff and also to the lads who ground out the win after going down to just two subs for the best part of 60 minutes.

Enjoy the game tonight and safe travels to those hardy souls who will be making the trips to Widnes next Friday for our rearranged fixture and to Keighley on the following Wednesday for our 1895 Cup clash against Halifax.

General Manager - Liam Claffey



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# STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

One of the articles I put out in the match day programme last season discussed our approaches to warm-up protocols and how this is so important to get right for the players to be able to train properly with their bodies in the right condition to avoid picking up injuries and also to hit the ground running on game day and start with a bang.

Now seems like a good time to take another look at this as, particularly for match day, our warm-ups have changed since last season and even developed a little over the first half of this season. Some of you may have spotted some these changes already. Take a look at what we're doing this weekend and see if you can work it out.

The first big change we made was incorporating a designated backs and kickers warm-up. We will go out, do some light dynamics and then get into a few kicking drills to warm the legs up, work on some specific techniques and just generally get these guys switched on ready for those high balls and big catches.

Designating this part of the warm-up, rather than saying the guys can go out in their own time if they want to seems to work quite well



from our perspective, although it does add extra pressure on the massage and physio team to get them sorted in time!

After this the whole team will warm-up together. We've tweaked the hand-eye drill at the start to just do some quick, short and sharp passes in a lane to get things going. A little light movement helping to raise the heartrate before moving on to the dynamics which we have kept similar to last year.

This is followed by a forwards/back split again, but with slightly different emphasis on the drills done, a bit more skill and shape for the backs and some good contact work for the forwards. We've maintained the mobilisation section after the split from last year as well, giving us an opportunity for some final stretches and team talk amongst the guys before we finish the warm-up.

The final stage of the warm up is some more contact. Unlike last year where we just did a sprint through, we now have a sprint through to contact and repeat bag work for a left, right and middles split.

To us this warm-up makes sense and works well. We might be in a position where we need to tweak things if we feel we're starting slow, but hopefully you have all seen the improvement on the field as well.





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# TODAY'S OPPOSITION

## It's a difficult task taking a look at tonight's opposition!

The Wolfpack have a plethora of talent right across the park and are a Super League club in all but name and only a gutsy, fantastic performance from our dual-reg partners London Broncos stopped that becoming a reality late last year.

Fully expect the Wolfpack to secure promotion this season but this is sport after all and anything can happen on the day as Toronto can attest to. Following that gut-wrenching loss in the new defunct Million Pound Game, Paul Rowley departed with Brian McDermott taking the helm following his departure from Leeds Rhinos earlier that year.

McDermott has brought a professionalism and steeliness to the Wolfpack that perhaps was missing in 2018 and their record to date speaks for itself. Just the one defeat, coming in the South of France to Toulouse. It was a comprehensive second half performance by the French outfit which saw them put the visitors to the sword. That loss still sees them three points clear of Toulouse with 26 points at the top of the Betfred Championship whilst

the Eagles trail behind Olympique on 18 points in third position.

Last weekend at the Summer Bash, they put that defeat to bed with an equally dazzling display against Toulouse.

With no involvement in the Challenge Cup of 1895 Cup the Wolfpack have the benefit of focusing solely on the league and with McDermott's past success at the Rhinos, will have them fired up for tonight.

On paper 1st vs 3rd has all the makings for a fantastic, nail biting encounter in what so far has been a pretty exciting competition in 2019 but Mark Aston's men go up against a full-time outfit and with long term injuries to Captain Matt James who has been an experienced leader on the field and James Glover who was in a great run of form, it will be a difficult task that awaits his side this evening. A wide, expansive 3G pitch here at the Olympic Legacy Park suits the Eagles' style of play but also that of the Wolfpack and they have a similar setup at their Lamport Stadium home.

Written By Liam Claffey



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# THREE TO WATCH

## Josh McCrone

McCrone is in fine form for the Wolfpack of late. Most of the club's signing have been 'high profile' but he is probably one that stands out after his move from NRL side St George Illawarra Dragons. 150 NRL appearances under his belt too, he is an experienced and astute operator at scrum-half and is at the heart of the engine room for the Wolfpack.

He links up superbly with the likes of Mellor and O'Brien, causing constant headaches for any opposition, switching the run of play from left to right quickly and at ease.

With a try and two assists against Toulouse last weekend in their comprehensive victory against Toulouse, he is certainly one to watch tonight.



## Anthony Mullally

Mullally was snapped up by Brian McDermott in February after working with the prop-forward for several years at Leeds Rhinos. He was overlooked by the now departed David Furer at the Rhinos early this season and is probably exactly the type of player the Super League outfit need in their current hour of need.

He is well-known to Mark Aston too, playing six times for him during his reign as Ireland Head Coach with appearances for the Wolfhounds at the 2013 & 2017 World Cups.

At 27 he is in his prime as a prop-forward, a tough ball runner, he makes hard metres time and time again and will be a handful for the Eagles tonight.

## Jon Wilkin

With 16 years at St. Helens and 400 + appearances for them, the utility back-rower has been an asset for the Wolfpack. That experienced, level headedness and leadership is something that the Wolfpack was lacking in 2018 and he has played a large part in helping the Wolfpack solidified their top of the table spot in 2019.

Being at Saints for such a long period, Wilkin has played in his fair share of big games and will be invaluable come the end of season play-offs. With his half-backs in McCrone & Mellor, Wilkin will look to control proceedings here at the Olympic Legacy Park tonight.

Written By Liam Claffey





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# JOSH GUZDEK

DF: Josh, we come into today's game after victory over Barrow Raiders. What are the lads taking away from that performance coming into tonight?

JG: It was a positive result and especially in the circumstances that it came in. A couple of bad injuries for two of our lads put us down to two subs for the rest of the game so it was a different challenge for us, and one we've not experienced before really.

It gives us a bit of confidence in that sense but Toronto are a tough team so we'll be going put there and giving our all.

DF: It was a tough afternoon for us with Matt James and James Glover both picking up injuries, how gutted are the lads for those two key figures?

JG: Both have been massive for us this year. Jamesy with his go-forward and being the big leader as he is our captain.

Glover has really come on this year, really stood up and gives us a spark on that left

edge when we need it. They'll both be missed but we need to put our best foot forward and someone can step into their place.

DF: Obviously it takes a lot of guts to bounce back from seeing your teammates like that. How pleased were you to see the side's character come out?

JG: It is what it is. Injuries you don't wish upon anyone but it's part and parcel of the game and it's all about the squad sticking together and doing the best as we can without them. We have to do well for ourselves and finish off the season well.





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# JOSH GUZDEK

DF: You've been an ever-present for the Eagles this season. How much have you enjoyed your debut campaign?

JG: Very much so. It's a skilful side and one I love being a part of. We're winning and you're always happy when you're winning. I get on with all the boys and the coaching staff have been really welcoming.

DF: Tonight we take on Toronto. We had a good go against them a few weeks back so what are we taking away from that encounter?

JG: We took quite a bit of confidence from it. They're right at the top and deservedly so as they are a good team but we ran them

close up until a few last tackle plays that got us. Hopefully we can put those wrongs right this time and maybe surprise them again with something different.

DF: On home turf we have shown our capabilities against the likes of Toulouse, that's got to be a performance we'll be looking to replicate?

JG: We're very good in attack and we can always trust it but it's our defence and if we can bring the same defence as we did against Toulouse, we'll be in the match and can run them close.

Josh Guzdek was speaking with Dan Fowler





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# GETTING TO KNOW

## **Last To Buy A Round?**

*Haven't been on that many nights out but I'll say Thacks (Anthony Thackeray)*

## **Rugby League Idol?**

*Billy Slater was a big idol for me so I'll go with him*

## **Best RL Moment?**

*Would have to be making my Super League debut for Hull KR!*

## **Come Dine with Me – Meal you'd make & three guest?**

*I'd invite Micky Flanagan, Margot Robbie and Kevin Hart.  
I would cook Ribs for the starter, a Thai Green curry for main and sticky toffee pudding for dessert!*

## **Snapchat or Instagram?**

*Instagram*



**Josh Guzdek**

**Number: 1**  
**Position: Full Back**

**Height: 6ft 0"**  
**Weight: 84kg**  
**Twitter:**

**@JoshGuzdek**

## **Funniest Player?**

*Blacky (Ben Blackmore) which is fairly standard for him!*

## **Favourite TV Show?**

*Family Guy!*

## **Worst Dressed?**

*Easy question, Sonny Esslemont*

## **Best Trainer?**

*I would go with Jamesy (Matt James) for that one to be fair.*

## **City of Beach Holiday?**

*Beach Holiday for me.*



# TODAY'S TEAMS



## SHEFFIELD EAGLES

	T	G	DG
1. Josh Guzdek	●	●	●
2. Ryan Millar	●	●	●
4. Jason Crookes	●	●	●
5. Ben Blackmore	●	●	●
6. Pat Walker	●	●	●
7. Anthony Thackeray	●	●	●
8. Pat Moran	●	●	●
9. James Davey	●	●	●
10. Matt James	●	●	●
11. Brad Knowles	●	●	●
12. Joel Farrell	●	●	●
13. Aaron Brown	●	●	●
14. Greg Burns	●	●	●
15. Oliver Davies	●	●	●
16. Corey Makelim	●	●	●
17. Shaun Pick	●	●	●
18. James Glover	●	●	●
19. Sonny Esselmont	●	●	●
21. Blake Broadbent	●	●	●
22. Paddy Burns	●	●	●
23. Rory Dixon	●	●	●
25. Lewis Taylor	●	●	●
26. Joslin Landu	●	●	●
29. Ben Hellewell	●	●	●

Referee: B. Pearson

Touch Judges: A. Smith & L. Rush

## TORONTO WOLFPACK

T G DG

●	●	●	1. Gareth O'Brien
●	●	●	2. Matty Russell
●	●	●	3. Chase Stanley
●	●	●	4. Ricky Leutele
●	●	●	5. Liam Kay
●	●	●	6. Joe Mellor
●	●	●	7. Josh McCrone
●	●	●	8. Adam Sidlow
●	●	●	9. Bob Beswick
●	●	●	10. Ashton Sims
●	●	●	11. Andrew Dixon
●	●	●	12. Bodene Thompson
●	●	●	13. Jon Wilkin
●	●	●	14. Andy Ackers
●	●	●	15. Darcy Lussick
●	●	●	16. Tom Olbison
●	●	●	17. Blake Wallace
●	●	●	18. Gadwin Springer
●	●	●	19. Gary Wheeler
●	●	●	20. Adam Higson
●	●	●	21. Anthony Mullally
●	●	●	22. Greg Worthington
●	●	●	24. Nick Rawsthorne
●	●	●	27. Hakim Miloudi



Match Comissioner: B. Lilley

Reserve Referee: J. Turner Time Keeper: D. Kershaw



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SHEFFIELDEAGLES



# BARROW RAIDERS

## 19/05/19

**Sheffield Eagles got back to winning ways on Sunday afternoon as they beat Barrow Raiders 30-18 at Bloomfield Road in Blackpool.**

In what was the Eagles' third consecutive Summer Bash victory, Anthony Thackeray and Joel Farrell starred for the South Yorkshire club with a brace each.

The win was marred by the injuries to James Glover and Matt James, with both players needing to have an extended period on the sidelines.

Jarrad Stack opened the scoring in the match for Barrow as he rose highest to claim a bomb and touch down. Jamie Dallimore was on hand to convert.

The Eagles responded on 25 minutes as Farrell took a Thackeray pass and crossed the whitewash. Pat Walker converted, leveling the game.

Sheffield did go into half-time two points down, however. Dallimore kicked a penalty goal after the Eagles were caught offside.

Barrow were looking to extend their advantage and came close when Deon Cross dived over the line but his foot was in touch.

From the very next set, Sheffield countered well and got their noses in front. Once again, it was that man Farrell doing the damage as he linked up with Thackeray once again.

Walker goaled for a 12-8 lead.

Three Eagles tries in the space of eight minutes put the result beyond doubt.

Ben Blackmore received a delightful cut-out



pass from Josh Guzdek and the winger had a walk-in. Walker converted.

A Thackeray double-salvo showed the scrum-half's talent in all its glory.

His first saw him sell the Barrow defence a dummy before reaching out over Ritson to score. Walker goaled, as he did following Thackeray's second which was the end of a fine team move.

With ten minutes remaining, Thackeray was sent to the sin-bin for dissent and Barrow capitalised on the man advantage with two tries to cut the deficit before the end.

Tee Ritson and Jono Smith were the try-scorers for Barrow, who are still without a victory since the opening game of the season.

A third victory on the bounce for the Eagles at the Summer Bash!

By Dan Fowler



# MATCH REPORT

**BARROW  
RAIDERS**

**18-30**

**SHEFFIELD  
EAGLES**

- 1. Josh Guzdek
- 2. Ryan Millar
- 18. James Glover
- 29. Ben Hellewell
- 5. Ben Blackmore
- 6. Pat Walker
- 7. Anthony Thackeray
- 8. Pat Moran
- 14. Greg Burns
- 10. Matt James
- 12. Joel Farrell
- 15. Ollie Davies
- 13. Aaron Brown

## INTERCHANGE

- 31. Nathan Mason
- 16. Corey Makelim
- 19. Sonny Esslemont
- 11. Brad Knowles



- 1. Tee Ritson
- 5. Deon Cross
- 12. Jarrad Stack
- 2. Star Amean
- 4. Jake Spedding
- 6. James Dallimore
- 7. Lewis Charnock
- 28. Josh Johnson
- 14. Wartz Puara
- 30. Alec Susino
- 25. Jordan Walne
- 11. Jono Smith
- 13. Martin Aspinwell

## INTERCHANGE

- 9. Nathan Massop
- 8. Tom Walker
- 16. Glenn Riley
- 16. Dan Toal



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## 05/05/19

**N**a brilliant advert for Championship rugby league, Leigh Centurions won a thriller against Sheffield Eagles thanks to a late Liam Hood try.

The lead changed hands on many occasions with both sides looking like they had a foothold and were on their way to victory. It was a late rally from the hosts that got them over the line, in front of their boisterous South Stand. Leigh opened the scoring inside five minutes as Josh Woods' cut-out pass was collected by Andy Thornley, who had a simple finish. Martyn Ridyard was on hand to convert.

The Centurions put more pressure on the Eagles try-line as the opening quarter came to a close. Woods won a goal line dropout but the attack petered out and the Eagles countered well. Ben Blackmore and James Meadows combined to get Sheffield up to halfway and they capitalised on the territory when Aaron Brown steamed on to a flat ball to crash over. James Glover converted.

On 24 minutes, the Eagles were down to 12-men as James Davey received his second yellow card of the year. The hooker was penalised for a tip tackle and sent to the sin-bin. Leigh made use of the numerical advantage soon after as McNally was played over on the wing. Ridyard added the goal. In the latter stages of the first period, Sheffield scored three tries in just over five minutes to shock the hosts.

Scrum-half Anthony Thackeray spotted Blackmore on the wing with the line at his mercy and the playmaker chipped a ball over the top for him to score. Glover converted, with help from the post. Mark Aston's side went ahead for the first time in the match when Ryan Millar showed his acrobatics to score. Glover's conversion attempt strayed wide. The final four-pointer of the half went to Glover, who supported a Davey break and finished the move. He couldn't convert.



In similar fashion to the Eagles' quick-fire tries, the Centurions responded with two of their own straight after the break. Ryan Brierley, on his return to the Leigh Sports Village as a Centurion, crossed the whitewash from close range to reduce the arrears. Ridyard converted.

The following set saw Leigh make good ground and a penalty on the last tackle had them camped on Sheffield's line. A one-one-one tackle on Iain Thornley saw the ball come loose but the centre touched down to send the LSV into raptures. Ridyard added the goal. Sheffield then regained the advantage with another quick flurry of tries. Thackeray bagged a brace, either side of a debut score for Meadows who touched down a Pat Walker grubber. Walker converted all three tries.

But the Eagles certainly couldn't envisage what was to come next. Tries from James Laithwaite, Josh Eaves and Hood – with conversions as always from Ridyard – capped off a brilliant comeback for the Centurions, who will take massive confidence from this in their fight for the top five.

# MATCH REPORT

**LEIGH  
CENTURIONS**

**42-38**

**SHEFFIELD  
EAGLES**

35. Ryan Brierley

1. Gregg McNally

3. Iain Thornley

12. Andy Thornley

4. Jack Higginson

6. Martyn Ridyard

7. Josh Woods

30. Luke Douglas

9. Micky Higham

10. Sam Brooks

11. Toby Adamson

23. James Laithwaite

15. Joe Cator

## INTERCHANGE

27. Liam Hood

25. Josh Eaves

29. Jake Emmitt

8. Tom Spencer



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**STADIUM  
LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE**



**ATTENDANCE  
3,031**

1. Josh Guzdek

2. Ryan Millar

18. James Glover

27. Jacob Ogden

5. Ben Blackmore

32. James Meadows

7. Anthony Thackeray

8. Patrick Moran

9. James Davey

10. Matt James

12. Joel Farrell

15. Olly Davies

13. Aaron Brown

## INTERCHANGE

6. Pat Walker

21. Blake Broadbent

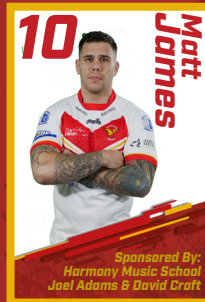
11. Brad Knowles

19. Sonny Esslemont





# PLAYER PROFILES



**15** **Oliver Davies**



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**16** **Corey Makelim**



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The Claydon Family

**17** **Shaun Pick**



Sponsored By:  
Daniel Crofts

**18** **James Glover**



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**19** **Sonny Esslemont**



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**21** **Blake Broadbent**



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**22** **Paddy Burns**



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**23** **Rory Dixon**



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**HEAD COACH**  
**Mark Aston**



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# VIEW FROM THE PARK



**We're back on home turf this evening as we welcome the table-topping Toronto Wolfpack to the Steel City.**

This fixture will always be one of great importance to the Eagles, considering that the first ever home match at the OLP was against the Canadian club. They have had our number on every occasion thus far but after the first game against them in this campaign, we can take confidence from the fact we showed up well in the opening half an hour.

More recently, the Eagles have gone through a tough spell with losses to Halifax at home and Leigh Centurions away. Both losses were by less than ten points which shows we are not far away even when we're not at the races.

Last Sunday's game against Barrow Raiders is exactly what the doctor ordered. Despite an indifferent first period, which saw the Eagles go into the break two points down, we turned on the style to outscore Barrow four tries to two and come home with the spoils.

That victory helped us back

into third spot in a very tight playoff race where every game is important. The likes of Anthony Thackeray and Joel Farrell were outstanding against the Raiders, scoring two tries each and also playing well in defence.

Of course, best wishes go out to Matt James and James Glover with their recoveries from nasty looking injuries that were sustained in the first half against Barrow. It's not nice to see at all and as the injuries came to two of our most important players, the victory cannot be played down in any aspect. Today's visitors, the Wolfpack, also showed their character and talent when they faced Toulouse Olympique at the Bash.

A comprehensive victory over the only team that has beaten them this year was perfect revenge for Brian McDermott's side, who are undoubtedly promotion favourites. Their talent all across the park is fit for Super League and they will be eyeing another big win today to keep the momentum going and their confidence glowing. But what everyone knows this season is that the Eagles can play and threaten any team on their day. Despite the injuries to Glover and James, Mark Aston will be pleased with his squad and content knowing they will give 100% right till the very end.



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# CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

**Many people, including myself, have often said 'I would love to have a go at that' but never done anything more about it.**

Why is this? Is it our fear of failure, what others will say or just not having the courage to step beyond what we know? Any action can subdue fear. When we face our fears we can end up being in control of them rather than them controlling us. We can then experience more freedom and fulfilment in our lives.

*'Even the smallest changes in our daily routine can create incredible ripple effects that expand our vision of what is possible'*  
Charles Galssman

Sadly, staying safe and not taking risks is easy to do, even when we long to step out from what we know into the unknown and attempt something new. It can take a lot of courage to try new and exciting things but once we actually make that decision and tell someone else, that can be the push we need to move out into new and exciting challenges.

Roy Bennett says 'We have to be honest about what we want and take risks rather than lie to ourselves and make excuses to stay in our comfort zone.'

Last week was Mental Health Awareness week and many interviews and documentaries on TV, radio and/or press and social media on how people are being supported by a range of organisations, charities and initiatives through their struggles with mental health issues. Like many others I have struggled over the years with anxiety & depression and have benefitted immensely from the support and encouragement of others.

One of the things I have wanted

to do for such a long time as a charity fundraiser, but am fearful of, is to do a Skydive. This is massively out of my comfort zone as I am no good with heights; in fact I'm petrified of them and the thought of being between 12,000 to 18,000ft in the air then jumping out of a plane is not my idea of fun. However others who have done it say it's an amazing sensation once you get out of the plane and are in the air. Now I have said it publicly I am going to have to take courage and do it, and in doing so will raise money for the work being done in the area of mental health.

I wonder if there is something you have dreamed about and wanted to do and yet still are being held back by your comfort zones? What will it take for you to have a go, step out and achieve something new?

*'Anything you do to stretch yourself out of your comfort zone will ultimately enable you to take larger risks and grow'* Leslie Evans

Club Chaplain - Baz Gacoyne







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# LATEST NEWS

**Sheffield Eagles can confirmed that our re-arranged match against Widnes Vikings will take place on Friday 31 May (kick off 7.45pm)**

The Eagles were originally due to travel to the Halton Stadium on Sunday 24 February for the Betfred Championship round four fixture.

Widnes unfortunately had to postpone the game due to the club entering administration with Sheffield supportive of the need for the game to be re-arranged at a later date, following the Vikings successful takeover.

The clubs have agreed that all tickets purchased for the original match, by both sets of supporters will be honoured.

The process for exchanging and honouring of those tickets will be released in due course.

Meanwhile our 1895 Cup match against Halifax will likely take place on Wednesday 5 June, kick off 8pm.

The game will be played at Cougar Park, home of Keighley Cougars.



This is due to Halifax's home stadium, The Shay's pitch being reseeded and so is not available for the match.

Tickets are priced as follows:

Adults - £10

Concessions - £5

Juniors - £1



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